



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 5787

LCO No. 2122

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Introduced by:
(PS)

An Act Establishing A State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There shall be within the Division of State
2 Police within the Department of Public Safety a state-wide firearms
3 trafficking task force for the effective cooperative enforcement of the
4 laws of this state concerning the distribution and possession of
5 firearms.

6 (b) The task force shall be comprised of municipal and state law
7 enforcement officers, and may include federal law enforcement
8 officers. Such task force shall be authorized to conduct any
9 investigation authorized by this section at any place within the state as
10 may be deemed necessary.

11 (c) The task force may request and may receive from any federal,
12 state or local agency, cooperation and assistance in the performance of
13 its duties, including the temporary assignment of personnel which
14 may be necessary to carry out the performance of its functions.

15 (d) The task force may enter into mutual assistance and cooperation
16 agreements with other states pertaining to firearms law enforcement
17 matters extending across state boundaries, and may consult and
18 exchange information and personnel with agencies of other states with
19 reference to firearms law enforcement problems of mutual concern.

20 (e) The Commissioner of Public Safety may appoint a commanding
21 officer and such other personnel as the commissioner deems necessary
22 for the duties of the task force, within available appropriations.

23 (f) The task force shall: (1) Review the problem of illegal trafficking
24 in firearms and its effects, including its effects on the public, and
25 implement solutions to address the problem; (2) identify persons
26 illegally trafficking in firearms and focus resources to prosecute such
27 persons; (3) track firearms which were sold or distributed illegally and
28 implement solutions to remove such firearms from persons illegally in
29 possession of them; and (4) shall coordinate the activities of the task
30 force with other law enforcement agencies within and without the
31 state.

32 Sec. 2. (a) There shall be a State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task
33 Force Policy Board within the Division of State Police within the
34 Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only,
35 consisting of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief State's
36 Attorney, the agent in Connecticut in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol,
37 Tobacco and Firearms, the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs
38 Association and five chiefs of police designated by said association,
39 each to serve for a term of one year, provided one such chief of police
40 shall be from a municipality with a population of one hundred
41 thousand or more.

42 (b) The policy board shall direct the formulation of policies and
43 operating procedures of the task force.

44 (c) The policy board may apply for and administer any federal,
45 state, local or private appropriations or grant funds made available for

46 the operation of the task force.

47 (d) The receipts from the sale of seized firearms pursuant to section
48 54-36e of the general statutes shall be deposited in the General Fund
49 and credited to a separate, nonlapsing forfeit firearms account which
50 shall be established by the Comptroller. All moneys in the account are
51 deemed to be appropriated and shall be expended for the purposes
52 established in section 1 of this act.

53 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 54-36e of the general statutes is
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

55 (b) Firearms turned over to the state police pursuant to subsection
56 (a) of this section which are not destroyed or retained for appropriate
57 use shall be sold at public auctions, conducted by the Commissioner of
58 Administrative Services or [his] such commissioner's designee. Pistols
59 and revolvers, as defined in section 53a-3, which are antiques, as
60 defined in section 29-33, or curios or relics, as defined in the Code of
61 Federal Regulations, Title 27, Chapter 1, Part 178, or modern pistols
62 and revolvers which have a current retail value of one hundred dollars
63 or more may be sold at such public auctions, provided such pistols and
64 revolvers shall be sold only to persons who have a valid permit to sell
65 a pistol or revolver, or a valid permit to carry a pistol or revolver,
66 issued pursuant to section 29-28. Rifles and shotguns, as defined in
67 section 53a-3, shall be sold only to persons qualified under federal law
68 to purchase such rifles and shotguns. The proceeds of any such sale
69 shall be paid to the State Treasurer and [by him] deposited by such
70 State Treasurer in the forfeit firearms account within the General Fund.

71 Sec. 4. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to
72 the Department of Public Safety from the General Fund, for the fiscal
73 year ending June 30, 2001, for the purposes of the state-wide firearms
74 trafficking task force.

75 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Statement of Purpose:

To focus efforts and resources on the eradication of illegal gun trafficking in this state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]